



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired
397 Azalea Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23227-3600

Raymond E. Hopkins
Commissioner

TO: Administrators of Special Education and Teachers of the Visually Impaired

FROM: Glen R. Slonneger, Education Services Program Director

DATE: October 6, 2011

SUBJECT: **Orientation and Mobility Services to Children who are Visually Impaired**

Beginning July 1, 2012, the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) will no longer provide Orientation and Mobility (O&M) services to children who are visually impaired.

This will not affect the many school divisions that already either employ their own O&M specialists or have contracts with private O&M specialists. However, the change will affect a few divisions in which DBVI has been providing very limited O&M services on the condition that our funding and staffing permits. Now a funding source has been eliminated and the agency must focus its limited O&M services on older Virginians who are blind.

Since both state and federal Special Education Regulations give school divisions the responsibility for providing O&M as a related service for students who are visually impaired, DBVI is developing a list of qualified O&M specialists who will contract with school divisions to provide this service.

If you have questions, please contact me either by phone (804) 371-3113 or by email at Glen.Slonneger@DBVI.virginia.gov.

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